UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MARYLAND SOUTHERN DIVISION

Deborah Robinson,	: Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	•
V.	:
CACH LLC; Bronson & Migliaccio, LLP; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendants.	· :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Deborah Robinson, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Deborah Robinson ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Silver Spring, Maryland, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 5. Defendant, CACH LLC ("CACH"), is a Colorado business entity with an address of 4340 South Monaco, Second Floor, Denver, Colorado 80237, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Defendant, Bronson & Migliaccio, LLP ("B&M" and together with CACH, the "Defendants"), is a New York business entity with an address of 415 Lawrence Bell Drive, Suite A, Williamsville, New York 14221, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 7. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by CACH and/or B&M and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
- 8. CACH and/or B&M at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 9. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to MBNA (the "Creditor").
- 10. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 11. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to CACH for collection, or CACH was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 12. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. CACH Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 13. The Plaintiff opened a credit card account with MBNA in 1999. MBNA was later purchased by Bank of America.
 - 14. The Plaintiff stopped making payments in 2004.
- 15. Recently, CACH called the Plaintiff numerous two (2) times per day in an attempt to collect the Debt.
- 16. CACH called the Plaintiff at her place of employment over twelve (12) times using automated systems and without her permission. Furthermore, the Plaintiff told CACH that she cannot accept personal calls at her place of employment.
- 17. CACH left recordings on the Plaintiff's office voicemail that were heard by her coworkers stating "we're calling so you can make payment arrangements."
 - 18. B&M received a judgment to garnish the Plaintiff's wages.
 - 19. B&M filed the action even though the statute of limitation had run on the Debt.
- 20. Furthermore, B&M served process on a fifteen (15) year old boy, and stated the boy was 18 so as to have service be proper.
- 21. CACH failed to notify the Plaintiff of her rights under state and federal law by written correspondence within five (5) days after initial contact, including the right to dispute the Debt.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 22. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
 - 23. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the

Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

24. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 25. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1) in that Defendants contacted third parties and failed to identify themselves and further failed to confirm or correct location information.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants informed third parties of the nature of Plaintiff's debt and stated that the Plaintiff owed a debt.
- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3) in that Defendants contacted third parties in regards to the Plaintiff's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 30. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.
- 31. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the

intent to annoy and harass.

- 32. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) in that Defendants misrepresented the character, amount and legal status of the Debt.
- 33. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 34. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1) in that Defendants attempted to collect an amount not authorized by the agreement creating the Debt.
- 35. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the Debt.
- 36. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the Debt was owed.
- 37. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the Debt within thirty days.
- 38. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 39. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice containing the name and address of the original creditor.
- 40. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

41. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF THE MARYLAND CONSUMER DEBT COLLECTION ACT MD. CODE COMM. LAW § 14-201, et seq.

- 42. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 43. The Defendants are each individually a "collector" as defined under MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-201(b).
- 44. The debt is a "consumer transaction" as defined under MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-201(c).
- 45. The Defendants disclosed or threatened to disclose information to a person other than the Plaintiff or his spouse information affecting the Plaintiff's reputation, with knowledge that the third party the Defendants were contacting had no business need for such information, in violation of MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-202(5).
- 46. The Defendants repeatedly contacted the Plaintiff with the intent to harass or abuse, in violation of MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-202(6).
- 47. The Defendants attempted to claim and enforce a right which the Defendants did not have a legal right to enforce or claim, in violation of MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-202(8).
- 48. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages proximately caused by the Defendants' violations.

<u>COUNT III</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT – 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.</u>

49. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 50. Without prior consent the Defendants made telephone calls to the Plaintiff's residential telephone line using an artificial or prerecorded voice to deliver a message without the prior express consent of the Plaintiff in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B).
- 51. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 52. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

<u>COUNT IV</u> INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

- 53. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 54. The *Restatement of Torts, Second*, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes…upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 55. Maryland further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus Defendants violated Maryland state law.
- 56. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing the Plaintiff with repeat phone calls.
- 57. The telephone calls made by the Defendants to the Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered "hounding the plaintiff" and "a substantial burden to her existence," thus satisfying the *Restatement of Torts, Second*, § 652(b) requirement for an invasion of privacy.
 - 58. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities

resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.

- 59. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.
- 60. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k(a)(3) against the Defendants;
- 4. Actual damages pursuant to MD. Code Comm. Law § 14-203;
- 5. Actual damages pursuant to MD. Ann. Code. Bus. Reg. § 7-401(b);
- 6. Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) & (C);
- 7. Actual damages from the Defendants for the all damages suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff; and
- 8. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: June 29, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By_/s/ Forrest E. Mays_

Forrest E. Mays (Bar No. 07510) 2341 N Forrest Drive, Suite 90 Annapolis, MD 21403 Telephone: (410) 267-6297 Facsimile: (410) 267-6234 Email: mayslaw@mac.com

Of Counsel To

LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C. A Connecticut Law Firm 1100 Summer Street, 3rd Floor Stamford, CT 06905 Telephone: (203) 653-2250

Facsimile: (877) 795-3666

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF